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Debra J. Held  
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May 4, 2000  
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GP 3724  
#25/18  
Re  
Interview  
5/18/00  
V. Hart

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of	)	
	)	
Rene Langhans	)	Group Art Unit: 3724
	)	Examiner: C. Goodman
on ROTARY CUTTING UNIT	)	
	)	
Serial No.: 08/883,685	)	
	)	
Filed: June 27, 1997	)	(Our Docket No. 2821-193)

Hartford, Connecticut, May 4, 2000

BOX: Non-Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner For Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

**Statement of the Substance of the Interview of April 20, 2000**

1. Brief Description of the Nature of any Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted

a. The Applicant's representative presented the Examiner with a proposed change to Fig. 1 which clearly showed additional detail of the cutter frame 51 in the area where the pin wrench 25 is inserted. It was agreed that the proposed Fig. Change was supported by the specification as filed. In particular, Fig. 4 clearly shows the edges of the slot through which the pin wrench is inserted.

b. The Gockel reference was discussed, including the Examiner's belief that that the Applicant's invention operates on the same principles of Gockel. It was agreed that the upper blade in Gockel is driven by the cutting action.

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c. Suzuki was discussed. Examiner did not place any patentable weight in the fact that Suzuki is driven by two shafts, and the fact that the present invention does away with the external gear/pulley assembly that facilitates removal of individual cutter units.

d. Examiner maintained a requirement for a dimension in the specification of the referenced blades in the prior art - without a reference dimension, such as a blade diameter from the prior art, the table of page 8 in the specification is meaningless.

e. The detachable drive unit 30 as shown in Fig. 1 is acceptable to the Examiner.

f. It was understood that Fig. 1 shows a collection or "assembly" of cutter units. In other words, a larger "cutter apparatus" as set forth in paragraph 10(ii) of the Office Action dated March 8, 2000. Accordingly, claim 6 should be deleted or amended (to remove "one guide rail") as it currently does not apply to a single cutter unit.

g. It was agreed that the attorney docket number would be corrected by requesting a change in the next paper submitted by Applicant.

h. It was agreed that all figure changes submitted earlier would be re-submitted to ensure that all Figures are current. It is assumed by Applicant that this includes the proposed changes to Fig. 1 which are discussed in paragraph #1 above.

i. It was agreed that the proposed amendment to Fig. 1 clarifies the interaction of the threaded bush 13 that is the subject of a §112 rejection in paragraph 8, page 4 of the last Office Action.

2. Claims 1 and 6 were discussed.

3. It was argued to the Examiner that Suzuki does not show each of the limitations set forth in the claims, and hence Suzuki does not anticipate the claims. No details of the rejections set forth in the last Office Action were discussed.

4. It was agreed at the end of the meeting that Suzuki "reads on" the invention. However, Applicant's representative retracts that statement and maintains that the present invention is distinguished in significant ways over Suzuki and also Gockel.

The upper and lower blades of Suzuki are driven by dedicated drive shafts, and there is no disclosure of a non-positive drive connection between the blades. Hence, Suzuki requires the elaborate mechanical arrangement to couple the upper and lower drive shafts.

Although Gockel is not cited against the present invention, it is important to address Gockel because of the weight given to Gockel earlier in prosecution and the significance of Gockel implied by the Examiner in the Interview. Gockel does not show an arrangement of blades and transport rings which provide a frictional engagement between the blades. While it is true that the upper blade of Gockel may be driven *under certain circumstances* by movement of the metal sheet between the blades and the resulting cutting action, the present invention takes the novel step of providing additional means, namely the transport rings, to provide a driving force to the upper blade. Cutting with the Gockel device would become difficult with various thicknesses of sheet material. The result realized by the non-positive drive arrangement of the present invention is that the cut is greatly improved over Gockel because the sheet metal is not being cut at the same time that the sheet metal is driving rotation of the upper blade. In the present invention, each of the blades has a transport ring that engages the sheet metal and provides force to drive the sheet metal through the cutter.

Respectfully submitted,

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